



ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

November 2025 Newsletter

This month
we're all
aabout...



... Our ECPros

Introducing our brand new ECPro committee (pictured here!) - the newest of our specialist groups met for the first time last month. With lots of ideas in the pipeline we're excited to share what they're planning in the coming months!



... the 2025 Members Survey

As the end of the year fast approaches we want to hear from you! Have your say in our members survey and influence how we run the society! Find the link on page 2.

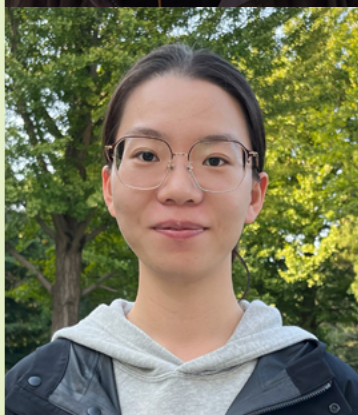


... Community

There's been lots going on in our wider applied biology community this past month, including the 2nd Black in Plant Sciences conference. Check out our community news & events section from page 7 to find out more.

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AAB News

A day in the life of an Applied Biologist

Last month our Early Career community got involved with Biology Week by filming a day in their life (pictured above). From agronomy, to forest management, to molecular lab work: we think they perfectly captured the diversity of careers in applied biology! Watch them for yourself over on our [socials](#) and [YouTube](#) channel!

Introducing our ECPros

We're proud to announce our new ECPro committee! As the newest of our specialist groups, the ECPros (Early Career Professionals) have been brought together to support, connect and empower our early-career applied biology community. Meeting last month for the first time, they're already planning big things so watch this space!

Spanning different industries & career stages the ECPro group will be working to generate opportunities for career development, networking and interdisciplinary collaboration. Visit the [ECPro group](#) page to read about the committee & learn more about their goals.

Have your say in our 2025 Members Survey

The [2025 AAB Members Survey](#) is live! Your feedback plays a vital role in shaping our future plans and vision for the society. The survey should take less than 5 minutes to complete, and we would greatly appreciate hearing from as many members as possible.

Thank you in advance for helping guide the direction of the AAB!

Manifesto published from AAB conference

A [manifesto for plant science education](#) has been published this month in Plants, People, Planet. Led by Elizabeth Alvey, Andrea Paterlini, Mary Williams & Katharine Hubbard, this manifesto was shaped by discussions at the "Plant Biology Education: Creating a Vision for the Future" conference that AAB co-organised back in January.

The manifesto outlines five key themes to cultivate a future where plant science education can effectively contribute to a sustainable planet. Exploring societal challenges, this excellent commentary aims to help plant science educators meet current challenges and opportunities. It's well worth a read!

Upcoming AAB Events

AAB Webinar Series... All about Trees

4th November, Online

Our November webinar is brought to you by our 'Applied Tree & Forest Biology' group. Featuring talks from Estrella Luna-Diez (University of Birmingham), John Vilasboa (University of Nottingham) & Rob Johns (Natural Resources Canada).

Register for free

Catch up on all our past webinars on YouTube



Advances in Integrated Pest and Pathogen Management

11-12th November, Leicester UK & Online

In this exciting meeting we are bringing together the interests of the AAB Applied Plant Pathology and Biocontrol and IPM groups to explore IPM strategies for both pest and pathogen management.

With an excellent draft programme now live, this event covers topics from genetic approaches for pest and pathogen management, policy and regulatory updates, biological control solutions, economic and farmer perspectives on IPPM & more. Featuring keynotes from Jonathan Jones (The Sainsbury Lab), Jim Dunwell (ACRE), Martin Lines (NFFN), Joe Helps (Rothamsted Research), Paul Wilson & Amma Simon (University of Nottingham).

In-person registration closed, online delegates can register until 12th November



Roots to Regenerative Agriculture

18-20th November, York UK & Online

This conference is an exciting collaboration between the AAB 'Soil and Root Biology' and 'Cropping and the Environment' specialist groups to bring together two broad yet highly interconnected topics across a three-day event.

We are delighted to say the draft schedule is now live. This exciting programme will focus on root and soil biology, the impact of regenerative soil management approaches on soil health and wider topics related to Regenerative Agriculture.

Featuring more than 30 oral presentations, including the Rank Prize talk from Professor Ken Giller (Wageningen University) and keynotes from Sharon Zytynska (University of Liverpool), Tim George (James Hutton Institute), Maria Hernandez-Soriano (John Innes Centre) and Patrick Holden (Sustainable Food Trust). We will host a poster session and two panel discussions involving farmers with active experiences of using regenerative approaches. Thanks to the Aurora Trust for supporting the attendance of our farming community.

In-person registration closed, online delegates can register until 20th November

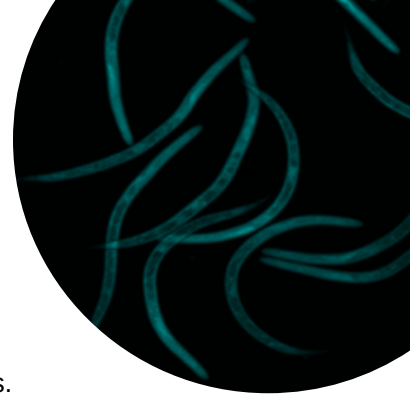


Advances in Nematology 2025

4th December, London UK & Online

The AAB Nematology Specialist Group are delighted to host 'Advances in Nematology 2025' as a single-day hybrid event at The Linnean Society London and Online. We invite abstract submissions from all areas encompassing the applied biology of nematology, including: molecular biology of nematodes or hosts, ecology, epidemiology, management of plant-parasitic nematodes, entomopathogenic nematodes and emerging diagnostic methods. Featuring talks from invited speakers: Hans Helder (Wageningen Research), Richard Binks (Koppert) & Anika Damm (University of Cambridge).

In-person registration closes 24th November



International Advances in Pesticide Application (IAPA26)

20-22nd January 2026, Cagliari, Italy

The biennial International Advances in Pesticide Application is the pre-eminent conference aimed at researchers, advisors, manufacturers, practitioners and regulators in this subject area from around the world. It provides an opportunity for networking and sharing ideas in an informal and collegial atmosphere for all those with an interest in pesticide application technology, its influence on the performance of plant protection products and human and environmental exposures to pesticides.

This conference will cover a very wide range of research, from traditional topics such as spray drift and sprayer testing, through precision application techniques, to new and emerging spray delivery platforms such as autonomous vehicles, both air and ground-based.

Register now.



Crop Production in Northern Britain (CPNB2026)

25-26th February 2026, Dundee UK

The AAB are delighted to organise CPNB 2026 on behalf of the Association of CPNB.

CPNB 2026 ("The Dundee Conference") is the foremost conference concerning environmental management and crop production and associated topics in northern environments; featuring sessions on 'Potatoes', 'Combinable Crops' and 'Agriculture and the Environment'.

Featuring keynotes from: Pete Smith (University of Aberdeen), Caroline de Rouffignac (Policy Lead, Scotch Whisky Association), Jonathan Jones (The Sainsbury Lab), David Kenyon (Chief Plant Health Officer for Scotland) & Paul Gosling (AHDB Senior Manager for Recommended Lists)

Abstract submission deadline: 1st December



Association for
Crop Protection
in Northern Britain
CONFERENCE

Monogram 2026

23-26th March 2026, Cambridge UK

Open to all researchers in academia and industry with an interest in cereals and grasses, Monogram 2026 will span disciplines including plant genetics, physiology, pathology, breeding, and bioinformatics.

The annual Monogram conference brings together researchers with an active interest in small grain cereal and grasses (including C4 energy grasses) research. With a dynamic programme including an ECR pre-conference workshop, plenary and keynote talks, the Rank Prize lecture - this year delivered by Cyrille Saintenac (Université Clermont Auvergne), the Monogram Early Career Excellence Awards (MECEA) and selected talks from submitted abstracts, poster sessions and poster flash talks. With keynotes from: Tim Mauchline (Rothamsted Research), Elizabete Carmo-Silva (Lancaster University), Alison Lovegrove (Rothamsted Research), Alex Webb (University of Cambridge), Sarah McKim (University of Dundee), Malcolm Bennett (University of Nottingham), Eric Ober (NIAB), Christoph Dockter (Carlsberg) & Jiorgos Kourelis (Imperial College). As always it promises to be unmissable!

Registration opens in December



International Conference on Photosynthesis Research (ICPR26)

26-30th July 2026, Liverpool UK

We are delighted to bring ICPR2026 to Liverpool in the UK. Tailoring photosynthesis to meet the needs of nature-



based solutions to climate change and to the sustainability of food production remain global challenges that have to be addressed by the photosynthesis community. This meeting will galvanise participants from academia and industry to translate this new mechanistic understanding of photosynthetic function into improved crop production and more efficient terrestrial carbon sinks.

With Keynotes from Danielle Way (Australian National University) and Nobel Laureate David Baker and Nathan Ennist (University of Washington, USA). ICPR26 will be our biggest event to date, featuring more than 20 concurrent sessions and 9 plenaries, be sure to check out the current programme & save the date!

Registration opens in January 2026.

International Symposium on Rice Functional Genomics (ISRFG2026)

7-9th September 2026, London UK

Save the date! We are pleased to announce that we will be hosting the 23rd International Symposium on Rice Functional Genomics in the UK for the first time next year at the prestigious Royal Society of London, bringing together a global community of rice researchers.



Auxin 2026

4-8th October 2026, Albufeira, Portugal

We are delighted to announce that the Auxin2026 meeting will take place in the Algarve next year. This quadrennial event brings together leading and emerging researchers in auxin biology to discuss the current state and future prospects for this exciting and fast moving research area! With 27 invited speakers from around the world, don't miss out - save the date!

Registration opens in January 2026.

Events in our Community

Monitoring Forest Biodiversity Potential with the Forest Biodiversity Index (FOBI)

13th November, Online

Introducing FOBI - this webinar will share insights from applying FOBI across state-owned forests in England and Scotland, demonstrating how it can inform management decisions at multiple scales to protect and enhance forest biodiversity. We'll also explore how FOBI can be applied to privately owned forests using survey and remote sensing data, highlighting its potential use for monitoring forest biodiversity potential across all forests in Britain.



[Register now](#)

FPC Careers 2025

20th November, Online



Are you ready to explore a world of vibrant opportunities in the fresh produce, flowers, and plant sectors? Whether you're a student, job-seeker, or just curious about where your career could grow - join us for inspiring talks, live Q&As, networking sessions, and direct access to top companies in the industry.

[Register for free!](#)

PBJ Webinar: "Translating Research from Lab-to-Field-to-Application"

24th November, Online

Join the Global Plant Council and our very own Plant Biotechnology Journal for their new webinar series. This first webinar will explore translating research from lab-to-field-to-application. Featuring talks from Prof Edgar Cahoon & Dr Hyojin Kim (University of Nebraska–Lincoln).



[Register now](#)

EPAC2026

19-20th February 2026, Melbourne, Australia & Online

The Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) welcome you to EPAC2026 - 'Advancing Sustainability in Agriculture: Enabling Precision Application of Crop Protection Products by Inclusion in Regulatory Approaches (Processes)'. This 2-day hybrid conference aims to facilitate greater understanding of new precision application technologies and the importance of including these in regulatory processes. Arising from the conference will be recommendations to regulators on how to consider recognising these technologies in regulatory exposure, risk assessment and other regulatory processes.

[Express your interest now](#)

Community News

Do you have something to share with our community? Opportunities, jobs, achievements... we'd love to hear about them. Get in touch with AAB Office!

Black in Plant Sciences 2025

Our Comms & Membership Manager Jordan had the pleasure of joining the Black in Plant Science (BiPS) 2025 conference last month in Leeds. Full of excellent science and a true celebration of diversity & inclusivity, this year's conference was a real showcase of the strengths of the BiPS network.



Following the conference themes 'Connect, Celebrate, Cultivate', there were plenty of opportunities to network and connect with the 90 strong delegation. The impact that BiPS is having on plant sciences in the UK & beyond was really tangible as we celebrated successes big & small. We heard from BiPS Research Excellence Award winners Charlene Dambire & Crispus Mbaluto on how the award has helped them this past year, enhancing visibility (with both attending our ICAR conference in July), opening doors & giving them the courage to stand up for their science.

Cultivating the next generation of scientists with the perfect balance of talks from established scientists & early career researchers, panel discussions & workshops; it was impossible not to be inspired by the scientific journeys & thoughtful advice from the Keynotes & Panellists (Nicola Patron, Lisa-Dionne Morris & Kevin Cox Jr to name but a few!) and we were all really blown away by the work presented by this year's BiPS summer undergraduate students. Thank you to Yoselin Benitez-Alfonso & the BiPS committee for hosting such an excellent event!

If you want to join this truly fantastic network supporting UK-based plant scientists with black heritage, find out more at blackinplantscience.org/

RSB's Plant Health Initiatives

RSB is pleased to announce it has been awarded a grant of over £500,000 from the Department for Environment, Food & Rural Affairs (Defra), in partnership with Fera Science Ltd, to continue and expand its programme of plant health professional development initiatives over the next four years (2025-2029).



Plant Health Professional (PHP) Register

Those working in plant health are encouraged to apply for the RSB's Plant Health Professional Register, which provides independent recognition and validation of your plant health and biosecurity competencies, professional standing and achievements. Suitable for anyone working with plants or plant material, whether in horticulture, agriculture, forestry, arboriculture, land management, research, resource management or the natural environment.

Registration is based on a competency framework that aligns with the current GB Plant Biosecurity Strategy, industry-led standards and assurance schemes. There are three levels within the register (Associate, Registered & Senior Plant Health Professional) providing a pathway for competency development and career progression. [Find out more.](#)

Plant health e-learning course

The RSB has launched an online training course covering topics from plant health principles and governance, to identifying and controlling pests and pathogens, good biosecurity practices, and communicating impacts on plant health. The first video introduces the PHP register and is free to everybody. The remaining modules are free to RSB members* at any level, or can be accessed by non-members for a small fee. [View the course.](#)

* if you're interested in signing up don't forget that AAB members receive 50% off RSB membership!

PHP Network on LinkedIn

Join this LinkedIn group for professionals working in any area of plant or tree health to network and share news and ideas. [Visit the group page.](#)

Plant Health Undergraduate Studentships (PHUGS)

The Plant Health Undergraduate Studentships programme provides funding for researchers to host paid summer studentships each year. Prospective hosts are invited to submit project proposals in the spring, and selected projects are usually advertised to students from the end of March. Keep an eye on the [PHUGS webpage](#) for more details.

Multinational Arabidopsis Steering Committee (MASC)

Annual Report 2024-2025



The latest MASC Annual Report is out now. Offering a snapshot of the Multinational Arabidopsis Steering Committee's global efforts, it highlights recent initiatives, resource development, and community support, along with key outcomes from ICAR2025. Read the full report [here](#).

Career Development Opportunities

Stapledon Travelling Fellowships



2026 Stapledon Travelling Fellowships Awards NOW OPEN. Applications invited for funding of up to £10,000 for visits to or from the UK/Ireland and other countries to undertake research, develop innovation & skills and networking on any aspect of grasslands, including its agricultural, social, economic and environmental purposes. [Apply now](#)

THE
ROYAL
SOCIETY

Royal Society Fellowships

Open fellowship calls: The [Career Development Fellowship](#) (deadline 19 November), The [Leverhulme Trust Senior Research Fellowship](#) (deadline 12 November) and The [Faraday Discovery Fellowships Accelerated International Route](#) (nominations are open throughout the year, but are next gathered for assessment on 25 November).

STEM for Britain

Calling all early career researchers: enter this poster competition for the chance to present your science at the Houses of Parliament. Applications close 24th November - [find out more](#).



The Plant Journal: Research Highlights Editor role

The Plant Journal are looking for two Research Highlights Editors to join the Editorial Team. An exciting opportunity for plant scientists who have a passion for science writing and enjoy communicating scientific research, you will be responsible for writing a short commentary on a selected article from each issue of TPJ. [Apply by 24th November](#).



Meeting Reports - Creating Canopies II

AAB hosted Creating Canopies II in Carlisle in September, here's what our ECR travel awardees had to say...

Romane Guernalec

University College Dublin & Teagasc

romane.guernalec@ucdconnect.ie

Creating Canopies II was the first forestry-focused conference I have ever attended—and I had the opportunity to give a talk! It did not disappoint: the range of forestry subjects covered was both incredibly instructive and fascinating. All of the keynote speakers were captivating; they could have spoken for hours and I would still have been eager to listen.

It was especially interesting to see how resilience to climate change threats is being studied and acted upon, from local restoration and citizen participation to more fundamental research on genetics, drought, modelling, and pathogens.

Presenting my own research was certainly a challenge. Talking about a subject as a student can be intimidating in front of experts in the field. However everyone was very kind and encouraging, and I was happy to have had this chance, and to have interesting discussions too.

Several subjects were new to me, but the one that really piqued my interest was urban forestry and trees outside traditional woodlands. I find, living in a city, some level of disconnection studying forestry but seeing relatively few trees (apart from my seedlings!). I was surprised to learn how much research is being carried out to address this issue—at least in Canada, the UK, and Ireland. With cities constantly expanding, urban trees face continuous pressure simply to survive, which ties perfectly into the conference theme of “adaptation and resilience.” Urban trees may, in fact, be the best example of resilience in action.

What is also interesting about this topic is how directly it involves the general public. As Amory Ngan highlighted, in the last few years there has been an incredible increase of public participation in the city trees management. One striking example was the citizen-driven distribution of free council trees for planting, which were all claimed within just two days. These initiatives show that, while there may sometimes appear to be a gap between “trees” and “forestry,” communication and public engagement can help bridge it.

“The highlight of these two days was undoubtedly the visit to Coombs Woods, giving a fresh and welcome applied perspective on the talks during the meeting.”

The conference also challenged the common opposition between productive non-native conifer plantations



and native broadleaf forests. Through the woodland visit and panel discussions, it became clear that there is no single “perfect” forest. Instead, the most appropriate forest is the one best adapted to the current climate and the challenges—both biotic and abiotic—of the future. Forest management plays a huge role in resilience as well. For instance, continuous cover forestry practices in Combs Wood demonstrated how to balance high biodiversity with economic viability by selecting high-potential trees by cutting down the ones nearby thus allowing light therefore natural regeneration. This was illustrated at three stops: a Scots pine stand with an understorey of fir, birch, and beech; a Douglas fir stand with an understorey of western hemlock; and a newly regenerated birch patch that established naturally after a windblow.

Acknowledgements

I would not have been able to attend, let alone present, without the guidance and constant support of my three supervisors: Brian Tobin, Conor O'Reilly, and Tomas Byrne. I am also thankful to Teagasc and University College Dublin for supporting my work and travel. I gratefully acknowledge the funders of my project, DAFM, as well as Coillte for their help. Finally, I would like to thank the Scottish Forestry Trust and the Association of Applied Biologists for awarding early career travel grants, which made it possible for me to participate in Creating Canopies II.



Jonathan Swinney

Imperial College London

j.swinney22@imperial.ac.uk

Highlights

- ◆ Keynote address by Professor Chris Quine. The presentation emphasised the significance of Britain's woodlands and provided a comprehensive historical account of forest management over the past century. One argument made was the inextricable relationship between people and trees and how societal beliefs and values fundamentally shape management decisions. This perspective suggests that enduring public attainment to trees will drive the development of novel management techniques - an urgent priority as new threats emerge in the coming decades.
- ◆ The poster session, which afforded in-depth discussions of my project with subject-matter experts and fellow presenters. These exchanges prompted new ways of conceptualising the study and suggested methodological avenues for analysis. Dialogue with other authors revealed substantive connections between our forest-focused projects, situating my work within the broader research landscape. As a result, I identified concrete strategies for addressing key challenges in my research.
- ◆ Field visit to Coombes Wood. This was my first visit to a Forestry England site in Northwest England. Accompanied by experienced practitioners, I gained insight into the area's soil characteristics and the silvicultural uses of Birch. The visit also demonstrated how different compartments of the forest are managed to meet distinct objectives thus highlighting the diversity of purposes within a single woodland.

The conference's networking opportunities were especially valuable. Engaging with individuals that are forestry experts enabled me to situate my project within current debates. It also allowed me to test emerging ideas in informed, constructive conversations. The exchanges yielded benefits - I received targeted methodological advice and established contacts for future collaboration. Overall, the networking strengthened the rigour and applicability of my doctoral research and clarified pathways for collaboration beyond the conference.

One of the most useful aspects of the meeting was the breadth of sessions on boosting forest resilience. Presentations spanned silvicultural diversification, risk-aware planning and biosecurity monitoring. I left with clear ideas to apply in my PhD such as trialling mixed species and using a clear set of resilience indicators. This synthesis both sharpened my research questions and provided practical methods I can implement immediately.

Acknowledgements

My sincere thanks to the Association of Applied and The Scottish Forestry for their generous support, which made it possible for me to attend the conference.

Update from the Annals of Applied Biology

Call for Papers: Legumes in Science and Practice

Submission deadline: Sunday 30th November 2025

Agriculture is faced with the challenges of reducing its impact on the environment, adapting to the changing climate, and supporting biodiversity. Dietary change towards flexitarian/plant-based diets also creates a growing market for grain legumes for direct human consumption/processing for food.

Grain and forage legumes have the potential to play a significant role either grown as sole crops, intercrops or mixtures in addressing the above challenges. The inclusion of legumes in cropping systems enhances soil nitrogen levels, reducing fertiliser requirements and GHG emissions. The diverse range of leguminous forage and grain species provides opportunities for agriculture to grow a wider range of crops that are capable of coping with more extreme weather. Legumes also provide a resource for pollinators and birds and promote soil biodiversity.

This SI aims to bring together submissions that explore how legumes are studied and used in modern agriculture and food science. The SI is organised to coincide with the Legumes Science and Practice 3 conference organised in Reading, UK June 3-4 2025.

Topics for this call for papers include but are not restricted to:

- ◆ Legumes
- ◆ Genetic Improvement
- ◆ Alternative Proteins
- ◆ Soil Biodiversity
- ◆ Inter-cropping
- ◆ Pollinator Support
- ◆ Nitrogen Fixation

Guest Editors:

Dr. Charlotte White - RSK ADAS Ltd
Dr. Emily Guest - Cranfield Environment Centre



Annals of Applied Biology
Biosciences for Sustainability

Special Issue: Call for Papers

Legumes in Science and Practice

**Submission Deadline:
20 November 2025**

WILEY

Call for Papers:

Crop Domestication Genomics: Applied Insights and Practices

Submission deadline: 31st December 2025

The rapid emergence of high-quality genome assemblies for crop species and their wild relatives has enabled new insights into the molecular underpinnings of domestication traits and how selection and other evolutionary forces have shaped the genomes of cultivated plants. Diverse methodological approaches, including genomic scans of selection, pan-genomic characterization of structural variations (SVs), demographic modeling, and genome-wide association studies, are now enabling previously unparalleled inferences on the process of domestication and its evolutionary basis.

In keeping with the journal's applied scope, topics of particular interest are those related to genomic insights with applied value in crop production, crop protection, agricultural sustainability, pest management, agroecosystem resilience, or other agronomic applications. Papers with a focus on genomic selection, genome editing, and other genome-enabled approaches to accelerated breeding are especially welcomed. Both empirical studies and focused reviews are encouraged.

Topics for this call for papers include but are not restricted to:

- ◆ Identification and molecular characterization of genes controlling domestication traits;
- ◆ Role of copy number variants (CNVs) and other structural variations (SVs) in crop genome evolution and domestication traits phenotype;
- ◆ Genomic basis of local environmental adaptation across climatic gradients or environments;
- ◆ Inferences on crop origins, including geographical centres of domestication, phylogenetic relationships to wild species, and demographic history; and contemporary or historic dynamics of gene flow and other population genetic processes;
- ◆ Genomic selection in crop improvement;
- ◆ De novo crop domestication or re-domestication from annual and perennial wild species.

Note: Complementary to Annals's special issue call, the AAB's Plant Biotechnology Journal is pleased to host a parallel call for submission.

Guest Editors:

Prof. Kenneth Olsen - Washington University
Prof. Jianxin Ma - Purdue University

Annals of Applied Biology
Biosciences for Sustainability



Special Issue: Call for Papers

Crop Domestication
Genomics: Applied Insights
and Practices

Submission Deadline:
31 December 2025



Call for Papers: RECROP: Plant Adaptations to Extreme Environments

Submission Deadline: 31st March 2026

Climate change is rapidly reshaping global agriculture, threatening crop productivity, food security, and rural livelihoods. Rising temperatures, shifting rainfall patterns, extreme weather events, and emerging pests and diseases are placing unprecedented pressure on farming systems. Developing crop varieties that can thrive under these changing conditions is essential. Advances in plant breeding, biotechnology, and precision agronomy offer exciting opportunities to enhance crop resilience and secure sustainable yields in the face of environmental stress.

Despite these advances, significant challenges remain. Traditional breeding methods are often too slow to respond to rapid climate shifts, while complex traits such as drought tolerance, heat resistance, nutrient use efficiency, and disease resilience are difficult to improve due to their polygenic and environment-dependent nature. The integration of genomic tools, high-throughput phenotyping, and predictive climate modeling into breeding programs is still limited in many regions. Furthermore, translating research into practical, field-ready solutions- especially for resource-constrained farmers- remains a critical bottleneck.

This Special Issue invites high-quality research and review articles that address strategies for crop adaptation to climate change. We particularly welcome studies on innovative breeding approaches, molecular and genomic mechanisms of stress tolerance, biotechnological solutions, and integrated agronomic practices. Contributions that bridge laboratory, field, and modeling approaches to improve crop performance and yield stability are highly encouraged. By highlighting cutting-edge solutions and practical strategies, this Special Issue aims to advance climate-resilient agriculture and inspire new approaches that ensure global food security under changing environmental conditions.

Topics for this call for papers include but are not restricted to:

- ◆ Drought tolerance mechanisms in crops and wild species
- ◆ Molecular and physiological responses to high salinity
- ◆ Heat stress signaling and tolerance in plants
- ◆ Root architecture adaptations to water-limited environments
- ◆ Genomic and transcriptomic insights into stress responses
- ◆ Gene editing approaches in stress adaptation
- ◆ Plant-microbe interactions in extreme environments
- ◆ Epigenetic regulation of abiotic stress tolerance
- ◆ Functional traits and phenotyping for stress-resilient crops

Guest Editors:

*Prof. Musa Kavas & Prof. Kubilay Yıldırım-
Ondokuz Mayıs University*

Annals of Applied Biology
Biosciences for Sustainability



Special Issue: Call for Papers

**RECROP: Plant Adaptations
to Extreme Environments**

**Submission Deadline:
31 March 2026**



WILEY

Call for Papers:

Roots to Regenerative Agriculture: Soils, Biodiversity and Novel Approaches

Submission deadline: Wednesday 1st April 2026

The concept of Regenerative Agriculture is successfully engaging the agricultural community, food industry and policy makers to consider how to utilise agricultural land to maximise the delivery of ecosystem services.

Regenerative practices are intended to mimic natural processes in order to deliver, productive and healthy ecosystems, enhance soil health, minimise environmental impacts, enrich social value, increase carbon sequestration and improve resilience to climate, water availability (flood and drought).

Root systems, the rhizosphere (the soil around the roots) and soil biota are increasingly topics of conversation and research in regenerative agriculture. Regenerative practices focus on building 'healthy and functional' soils, which are full of biological life. Understanding how these micro- and macro-organisms interact with each other and plants via their root systems and in turn how these are affected by different agricultural practices and stresses (e.g. waterlogging or drought) is an important part of meeting the global challenges of food security, biodiversity loss and climate change.

This Special Issue aims to bring together submissions that explore the evidence for the novel approaches in regenerative agriculture and agroecology. The SI is organised to coincide with the Roots to Regenerative Agriculture conference organised in York, November 18-20 2025.

Topics for this call for papers include but are not restricted to:

- ◆ Regenerative Agriculture
- ◆ Agroecology
- ◆ Soil Health
- ◆ Soil Biodiversity
- ◆ Inter-cropping
- ◆ Root Systems and Rhizosphere

Guest Editors:

Dr. Charlotte White - RSK ADAS Ltd

Dr. Mark Hodson - University of York

Dr. Isobel Talks - The Landworker's Alliance

Annals of Applied Biology

Biosciences for Sustainability

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ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

Special Issue: Call for Papers

**“Roots to Regenerative
Agriculture: Soils,
Biodiversity and
Novel Approaches”**

**Submission Deadline:
1 April 2026**



WILEY

Membership

As a member of the Association of Applied Biologists, you join a community of over 1000 professionals working across all areas of Applied Biology to improve agricultural productivity, with added benefits...

Discounts

- ◆ Save on registration fees for our scientific conferences & workshops (up to £100!)
- ◆ Two-way membership discount with the Royal Society of Biology (50% off!)
- ◆ 30% off Aspects of Applied Biology
- ◆ 20% discount in publication fees for Plant Biotechnology Journal

Fellowship

Long-term continuous members (7+ years) can apply for Fellowship of the AAB (F Appl. Biol.).

Access to Grants

- ◆ Eligible to apply for short-term mobility grants (up to €3000) from the Federation of European Societies of Plant Biology
- ◆ Eligible to apply for 'AAB Carer Fund' accessibility grants (£500)
- ◆ Priority access to Early Career travel grants for all AAB events (£500)
- ◆ *New* access to members-only Early Career travel grants for external conferences (£500)



ASSOCIATION OF APPLIED BIOLOGISTS

**Become a
Member!**

Community

- ◆ Join an AAB specialist group & steer our society
- ◆ Share your news & opportunities in our monthly newsletter, circulated to ~4500 scientists

AAB Specialist Groups



Applied Plant Pathology



Applied Tree and Forest Biology



Biological Control and Integrated Pest Management (IPM)



Cropping And The Environment (CATE)



Food Systems



Horticultural Quality and Food Loss



Nematology



Pesticide Application



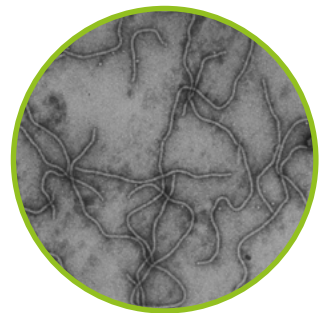
PlantEd: Genome Editing in Plants



Early Career Professionals



Soil and Root Biology



Virology

AAB Council



Dale Sanders, PhD
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